



**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Environmental Quality

October 19, 2000



M.J. "Mike" Foster  
Governor

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# DEQ PLEASED THAT APPEALS COURT GRANTS GTX OPERATING PERMIT IN AMELIA

**T**he Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is pleased that an appeals court has overturned an earlier district court ruling. Today's ruling, by the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, reinstates a hazardous waste incinerator operating permit for GTX, Inc. in Amelia, Louisiana. The 19<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court had earlier rejected the permit.

"DEQ granted the permit after an extensive review. Our conviction has never wavered that DEQ's original decision to grant the permit was proper," according to Dale Givens, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.

"DEQ scientists performed a thorough and exhaustive analysis in connection with GTX's permit application. We followed all aspects of the statutory requirements of the Environmental Quality Act as well as all applicable state and federal regulations. Our decision to permit the GTX facility was made with full consideration for the health, safety and welfare of the people and the environment."

Secretary Givens continued: "The state of Louisiana has strong regulations in place to ensure the safe operation of GTX, Inc. Several years ago, the Environmental Protection Agency authorized the Department to issue permits for hazardous waste incinerators under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Prior to granting DEQ such authorization, the EPA examined our programs and determined that we had the resources and regulations to successfully manage the hazardous waste program for the state of Louisiana. DEQ remains committed to enforcing those rules and regulations.

"The Department takes the permits program very seriously," Secretary Givens added. "We have never granted a permit without being convinced that the operations of the permitted facility in no way compromise the health, safety and welfare of the general public. We are confident that this is the case with the GTX permit and are pleased that the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit Court agrees."

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